

Remarks

The previously pending claims have been canceled in favor of new claims 21-29. New claims 21-24 find support in Figures 1-2, 5-7 and 9. New claims 25-27 find support in Figures 4 and 8. New claims 28-29 find support in Figure 3. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-7 and 10-15 were rejected as anticipated by FIELDS et al. 6,077,401 and claims 1-20 were rejected as unpatentable over respective combinations of IIJIMA et al., TOSHIYUKI et al., YUKISHIGE et al and YOSHIDA et al. The new claims avoid these rejections and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

None of the references discloses an apparatus in which the incoming light arrives at the impact site at a first angle via the pipe, pair of reflectors, or partition (as in respective claims 21, 25, and 28) and where the outgoing plume of nanocarbons extends at a second angle from the impact site and into a second pipe as claimed. Since none of the references discloses these features, they would not be obvious to one of skill in the art. Accordingly, the new claims avoid the rejections under §102 and §103.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Thomas W. Perkins/
Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

TWP/lrs